

RHODE ISLAND
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT
Edward P. Sowa, Jr.
Judge

NAME Edward P. Sowa Jr.
Lincoln, Rhode Island

BUSINESS ADDRESS J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

BUSINESS TELEPHONE (401) 458-5000
FAX (401) 222-3121

PROFESSIONAL Gunning & LaFazia, Inc. A Providence
law EXPERIENCE firm specializing in civil
trial litigation
Associate 1969-1974, Partner and
Corporate Officer, 1994-present:
specialized in trial practice with
emphasis in insurance defense,
product liability
defense and medical issues in
civil litigation at the Superior Court
level until 1976, when emphasis shifted
to Workers' Compensation practice.
Litigation responsibilities included
product of all phases of litigation such as
case analysis, client counseling,
investigations, depositions, court
discovery, settlement negotiations,
arbitration, alternative dispute
resolution proceedings, jury and
non-jury trials, administrative
hearings, and appeals to the Rhode
Island Supreme Court

Superior Court From 1971-1976, litigated as lead
Experience counsel at least 15 Superior Court
jury trials to a
conclusion annually. After
1976, maintained an active Superior
Court caseload with approximately five
civil jury trials per year tried to a
conclusion as lead counsel.

Workers' Compensation Experience In 1976, the majority of practice shifted to the Workers' Compensation Commission, later to become the Compensation

Workers' Court. During the first fifteen years of Workers' Compensation practice, emphasis was on the defense side. After the 1990 and 1992 Amendments to the workers' Compensation Act were enacted, emphasis shifted to employee advocacy with a practice of approximately 50% employee oriented cases and 50% defense oriented cases. Maintained an active case load in excess of 500 claims. An average court day comprised 6-15 cases, many of which resulted in completion through trial, particularly during the 1989-1994 period when the backlog at Workers' Compensation Court was eliminated.

Appellate Experience Appealed approximated 10% of Workers' Compensation trials to the Appellate Division, with the actual number decreasing in recent years. Appellate Division work included reasons of appeal, show cause hearings and petitions for

certiorari to the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Supreme Court Experience Argued more than 50 cases to the Supreme Court, and as lead counsel, am noted as the participant in more than 30 written decisions. These appellate procedures required brief writing and oral argument before the Rhode Island Supreme Court. Some of the major decisions representing the law involved are attached hereto.

Arbitration Experience Involvement with arbitration began with admission to the American Arbitration Association. Upon request, served as arbitrator under A.A.A. sponsorship. Subsequent thereto, served as arbitrator in the Rhode Island Court-annexed system which provides non-binding arbitration

on cases pending in Providence County Superior Court, later being extended to other counties. Ruled on more than 150 cases, with an estimated acceptance rate approaching 80%.

Dispute
format.

Rendered more than two dozen binding decisions in my capacity as an arbitrator under the Alternative Resolution

My most active arbitration practice consists of being appointed the "impartial" arbitrator in binding arbitrations. For the past four years,

averaged over one binding arbitration session every two weeks. This practice requires counsel for the plaintiff and defense appointing their own partial arbitrators who then choose the "impartial" arbitrator. This process, utilized in uninsured/underinsured claims and pending cases in the Superior Court, has aided in a reduction of the caseload at those courts and earlier trial dates for the remaining cases.

Judge of Probate, Lincoln, R.I.
July 1995 - November 1998
Heard approximately ten cases per month, some with testimony under oath and full hearings.
During my tenure, only three cases were appealed to the Superior Court for trial de novo, and, to date, none of my decisions have been overturned.

EDUCATION

Boston University School of Law
Boston, MA
Juris Doctor, May 1969

University of Rhode Island
North Kingstown, R.I.
Bachelor of Arts, 1966

BAR

.State of Rhode Island

MEMBERSHIPS

.Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS**

Association

Association

.United State District Court for the
.District of Rhode Island
.Supreme Court of the United States

.Rhode Island Bar Association
.Massachusetts Bar Association
.Former Member American Bar

.Alternative Dispute Resolution
.American Arbitration Association
.Rhode Island Trial Lawyers

.Pawtucket Bar Association